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For immediate Release:

## **Miami Correctional Facility nominated for Freedom Award**

Bunker Hill, IN (April 6, 2009) – Miami Correctional Facility was recently notified that it has been nominated for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

An employee from the facility serving in the National Guard or Reserves nominated MCF for this prestigious award. The Freedom Award is the U.S. Government's highest recognition given to American employers of National Guard or Reserve members for their exceptional support above the requirements of federal law.

MCF's nomination for this award demonstrates the employees' appreciation for the exceptional leadership, support and personal devotion MCF provided to the National Guard and Reserve. More than 3,000 Guard and Reserve service members took the time to nominate their civilian employer. The 2009 recipients will be announced mid-summer and honored in Washington, D.C., at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony Sept. 17, 2009.

A total of 68 Indiana National Guardsmen and Reservists nominated their employers to receive the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is particularly significant because only members of the National Guard and Reserve or their family members are eligible to nominate their employers for the award. Indiana Women's Prison, another Indiana Department of Correction Facility, was also nominated for the award, along with the Indiana State Police Post in Peru.

According to the nominations, many employers, for example, provided continued benefits, differential pay, family assistance and additional support. A national selection board comprised of senior defense officials and business leaders will select up to 15 recipients for this year's award. The Department of Defense will announce the 2009 Freedom Award recipients this summer.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. Previous honorees include American Express, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Sears, Home Depot, the State of Tennessee and the Winner School District of South Dakota.

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For more information about the award, go to [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

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